



File Code: 1950

Date: April 28, 2021

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Mount Rogers National Recreational Area (NRA) is seeking comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Ewing Mountain Vegetation Project. The project proposes a series of actions to improve wildlife habitat and forest conditions in the Ewing Mountain area of Grayson, Wythe, and Carroll Counties in Virginia.

Information on the proposed action and associated analysis documents can be viewed online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44665>. The analysis documents may also be viewed by appointment at the NRA office at 3714 Highway 16, Marion, VA 24354.

To comment on this Draft Environmental Assessment, written and electronic formats will be accepted. Comments must be submitted by 30 days from date of the [legal notice](#) published in the *Bristol Herald Courier*. This notice is expected to be published on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 and the last day comments will be accepted will be Friday, May 28, 2021. Only those who submit timely, specific, and relevant comments during an official comment period will be eligible to object. In order to file an objection, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Comments may be submitted through the website:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=44665>

Electronic comments may be submitted as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx), portable document files (.pdf), or in rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html). Comments may also be mailed to Barry Garten, Mount Rogers NRA Ranger, 3714 Highway 16, Marion, VA 24354, or hand-delivered to the above address on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please reference "Ewing Mountain Vegetation Project" in the subject line.

Public engagement and collaboration on this project is important. Due to COVID-19, social gathering restrictions, and the need to keep employees and stakeholders safe, public engagement will be sought virtually. The NRA will hold a virtual public workshop to ask questions and learn more about the Ewing Mountain Vegetation Project. Details for this meeting will be included in a separate email. The materials that will be provided at the public meeting will be posted online prior to the meeting to allow stakeholders access to those materials should any connectivity issues occur during the meeting. The District looks forward to answering your questions and providing clarification about the Ewing Mountain proposal.

This meeting will occur within the 30 day draft EA notice and comment period for this project. Comments provided at the public meeting will not be recorded as formal project comments. Please submit comments in writing as described above. Comments received in response to this



solicitation, including names and contact information of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record of this analysis and will be included in the final project record. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality.

If you have questions about this proposal please contact Chris Shaw, Project Leader, at christopher.e.shaw@usda.gov or myself at barry.garten@usda.gov. The office number for the Mount Rogers NRA is (276) 783-5196. Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forests.

Sincerely,



BARRY K. GARTEN
Area Ranger

